The sign of kurtosis within finite system near the QCD critical point*

Shanjin Wu^{1,†}

¹School of Nuclear Science and Technology, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, China

The sign of higher order multiplicity fluctuations is a very important quantity in exploring the QCD phase transition. It is found that the kurtosis of net-baryon is typically negative in the simulations of the dynamics of conserved net-baryon density near the QCD critical point. This paper considers the effects of finite size on the multiplicity fluctuations with equilibrium critical fluctuations. It is found that the multiplicity fluctuations (or magnitude of correlation function D_{ij}) are dramatically suppressed with decreasing system size when the size of the system is small comparing correlation length, which is the so-called acceptance dependence. Consequently, the small correlation function of the small system size results in the magnitude of the negative contribution ($\sim D_{ij}^4$) in the four-point correlation function dominates over the one of positive term ($\sim D_{ij}^5$), and this finite size effects induces a dip structure near the QCD critical point.

Keywords: Relativistic heavy-ion collisions, QCD phase transition, Multiplicity fluctuations, Finite-size effects

I. INTRODUCTION

Exploring the Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) phase structure is one of the most important topics in high-energy nuclear physics. Simulations by lattice QCD reveal that the transition from the quark-gluon plasma (QGP) phase to the hadron phase is a crossover at vanishing baryon chemical potential ($\mu \simeq 0$) [1–4]. On the other hand, the effective theories based on QCD predict that this transition is a first-order phase transition at finite chemical potential [5–9]. Therefore, it is natural to conjecture the existence of a QCD critical point between the crossover and first-order phase transition [10, 11].

The characteristic feature of the critical point is the long-13 range correlation and large fluctuations. After being created in relativistic heavy-ion collisions, the QGP fireball scans the 15 QCD phase diagram during the evolving process and may 16 touch the critical region. Such fluctuating effects may imprint the final observable of the heavy-ion experiments. It 18 was conjectured that the non-monotonic behavior as a func-19 tion of collision energy can be regarded as one of the signa-20 tures of the critical point [12, 13, 15]. The first phase Beam 21 Energy Scan (BES-I) program at RHIC has been performed scan the QCD phase diagram by tuning the collision en-23 ergy [14]. Preliminary measurement of the net-proton multi-24 plicity fluctuations has shown such non-monotonic behavior with the energy range from 7.7 to 200 GeV [16, 17]. How-26 ever, the statistics of the BES-I program are insufficient to conclude the observation of the non-monotonic behavior, and it requires much higher statistics in the coming second phase of BES and FIX target measurements.

Theoretically, the QGP fireball created in relativistic heavy-ion collisions is a complex system and several effects may have an impact on the final behavior of the net-proton multiplicity fluctuations. For instance, due to the rapidly expanding effect, the multiplicity fluctuations may deviate from the equilibrium ones. By considering the dynamical effects

induced by the expanding QGP fireball, people found that the magnitude of the fluctuations can be suppressed [18, 19], the sign can be reversed [20], the maximum of the fluctuations can be moved from the critical point [21]. Therefore, remarkable progress has been achieved in developing the dynami-ducal model near the QCD critical point. For example, the dynamics of the conserved variables (charge, net-baryon) have been developed [22–26] and non-monotonic behavior of the fluctuations with respective to the increasing rapidity acceptance window have been observed [22, 25, 26]. Please see e.g., Refs. [27? –32] for recent reviews.

In particular, the signs of the multiplicity fluctuations are 48 important in exploring the phase structure in heavy-ion exper-49 iments. Comparing its magnitude the signs can be regarded 50 as more obvious signatures of the phase transition [13, 34]. It 51 was predicted the non-trivial behavior of the signs of higher 52 order cumulants or moments of conserved quantities near the QCD critical point [13, 34]. By developing the dynamical 54 model near the QCD critical point, it was found that the crit-55 ical slowing down effects may flip the signs of higher order 56 cumulants [20]. Remarkably, the fourth-order cumulants (or 57 kurtosis) of the multiplicity fluctuations in these conserved ₅₈ dynamical models are typically negative [23–26]. This is hard 59 to achieve with only critical slowing down effects. Because 60 the corresponding memory effects preserve the sign of the static kurtosis above the phase transition curve, which is not always negative [20]. Thus, the sign of kurtosis has not been 63 fully understood yet in such a comprehensive and complex simulation of the conserved dynamical models. This work 65 focuses on the study of the impacts from one of the factors in 66 the conserved dynamical simulation, i.e., finite size effects, on 67 the sign of kurtosis. In the realistic experiment detection with a finite range of acceptance, only part of the system has been collected. This corresponds to the finite size of the system and also the kurtosis is obtained within finite volume in the 71 dynamical models. To understand the typically negative kur-72 tosis near the critical point in the dynamical conserved models, this work is dedicated to pointing out that the finite size 74 of the detected system may also modify the sign of kurtosis, 75 by considering the finite volume when calculating the multi-76 plicity fluctuations in a static system.

^{*} Supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No.12305143) and the China Postdoctoral Science Foundation under Grant (No. 2023M731467)

[†] Corresponding author, shanjinwu@lzu.edu.cn

MULTIPLICITY FLUCTUATIONS WITHIN FINITE SIZE SYSTEM

Near the phase transition, thermal variables (this work focuses on baryon density n_B) strongly fluctuate and the corresponding partition function can be written as the Ginzburg-Landau form [23–26]:

83
$$Z[\mu] = \int Dn_B \exp\{-\frac{1}{T} \int d^3x \left[\frac{m^2}{2}n_B^2 + \frac{K}{2}(\nabla n_B)^2 + \frac{\lambda_3}{3}n_B^3 + \frac{\lambda_4}{4}n_B^4 + \mu n_B\right]\},$$
 (1)

where T is temperature. The kinetic term with surface tension K is a measure for the range of the interaction as well where the factor $\exp[-Dtp^2(Kp^2+m^2)]$ is introduced to as nonlinear interaction terms. $m = \sqrt{K/\xi}$ is inversely proportional to the correlation length ξ . λ_3 and λ_4 are the coupling constants for three- and four-point correlation, respectively. In relativistic heavy-ion experiments, susceptibility of conserved quantity is regarded as the sensitive observable to 92 the QCD phase transition [27, 34–36], because they represent the magnitude of the response of the systems against external 94 force and therefore encodes the correlation between the particles in the system. In particular, people are more interested in the susceptibility of the conserved thermal quantities, such as charge or net-baryon, as they can be obtained unambiguously 98 from the partition function or the grand potential by taking 99 derivatives:

$$\chi_n = \frac{\partial^n P}{\partial u^n},\tag{2}$$

101 where the pressure has the form

100

102

106

$$P = \frac{T}{V} \ln Z. \tag{3}$$

where V is the volume of the system.

The second-order baryon number susceptibility is propor-105 tional to the two-point correlator:

$$\chi_2 = \frac{V}{T} (\langle n_B^2 \rangle - \langle n_B \rangle^2), \tag{4}$$

where $\langle \cdots \rangle$ denotes the event-by-event averaging. While the 108 average of the correlator over the coordinate space is evalu-109 ated with a finite volume

$$\langle n_B^2 \rangle = V^{-2} \int_V d^3 x_1 d^3 x_2 \langle n_B(x_1) n_B(x_2) \rangle.$$
 (5)

111 Namely, the spatial integration is performed within finite vol- 159 where the four-point correlation function can be calculated ume V. Note that $\langle n_B \rangle = 0$ can be obtained from Eq.(1). The 160 from Eq.(1):

113 correlation function $\langle n_B(x_1)n_B(x_2)\rangle$ can be evaluated with

$$\langle n_B(\mathbf{x}_1) n_B(\mathbf{x}_2) \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial \mu^2} = \frac{T}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3 p \frac{e^{i\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2)}}{K\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2},$$
(6)

115 This is the Ornstein-Zernicke form of the correlation function. 116 In the dynamics of the conserved baryon density [23–26], the partition function in Eq.(1) is treated as the effective potential 118 in the stochastic diffusion equation. In the linear limit, the dynamical correlation function can be extended as [37]

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{3} n_B^3 + \frac{\lambda_4}{4} n_B^4 + \mu n_B \right\}, \quad (1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3p \frac{e^{i\boldsymbol{p}(\boldsymbol{x}_1 - \boldsymbol{x}_2)}}{K\boldsymbol{p}^2 + m^2} \exp[-Dt\boldsymbol{p}^2(K\boldsymbol{p}^2 + m^2)],$$
The kinetic term with surface ten.

describe the diffusion of the correlation function as a function of time t, and D is the diffusion coefficient. This factor is 125 introduced merely to take into account the dynamical effects 126 in such a static model and it does not change the following analysis. If the dynamical factor $\exp[-Dt\boldsymbol{p}^2(K\boldsymbol{p}^2+m^2)]$ been neglected, the spatial integration in Eq. (5) is performed in spherical coordinate with radii R, and it takes the following 130 form:

$$\langle n_B^2 \rangle = \frac{T}{V} \frac{1}{K} \left[\xi^2 (1 - e^{-R/\xi}) - R\xi e^{-R/\xi} \right].$$
 (8)

132 In the limit of the infinite large volume $R \gg \xi$, the second order baryon number susceptibility approaches to correlation length $\chi_2 \to \xi^2$. This means that the susceptibility of the 135 system is only determined by the correlation length ξ , not (2) 136 the size of the system R. This reproduces the previous result in Ref. [12]. It can be understood that the number of corre-138 lated particles is determined by ξ . The particles beyond the 139 correlation length ξ are uncorrelated and do not contribute to 140 the value of susceptibility. On the other hand, in the limit of small size $R \ll \xi$, the second order baryon number suscep-(3) 142 tibility approaches the system size $\chi_2 \to R^2/\sqrt{K}$. In this 143 limit, the susceptibility of the system strongly enhances with 144 the increasing size of the system. This is the so-called acceptance dependence, which has been proposed [38, 39] and observed in experiments [40]. This can be regarded as another indicator of the long-range correlation. When the susceptibil- 148 ity obtained within a scale R is smaller than the correlation length ξ , all the particles detected are correlated with each $_{150}$ other. The increasing size R means more particles correlated and contribute to the susceptibility.

Higher order susceptibilities are important observables for the searching QCD critical point because they are more sensitive to the correlation length and their signs are more obvious observables than the magnitudes considering the com-156 plex system in relativistic heavy-ion collisions [12, 34]. The 157 fourth-order susceptibility is given by

$$\chi_4 = \frac{\partial^4 P}{\partial \mu^4} = \left(\frac{V}{T}\right)^4 [\langle n_B^4 \rangle - 3\langle n_B^2 \rangle^2],\tag{9}$$

$$\langle n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_1) n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_2) n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_3) n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_4) \rangle$$

$$= -6\lambda_4 T^3 \int d^3 z \prod_{i=1}^4 D_{zi} + 12\lambda_3^2 T^3 \int d^3 u d^3 v D_{u1} D_{u1} D_{v3} D_{v4} D_{uv} + T^2 (D_{12} D_{34} + D_{13} D_{24} + D_{14} D_{23})$$
 (10)

the two-point correlator is defined 164 $\langle n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_i) n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_i) \rangle \equiv$ TD_{ij} . As this work focuses the 165 on the susceptibility, disconnected diagrams 166 $T^2(D_{12}D_{34} + D_{13}D_{24} + D_{14}D_{23})$ will be canceled due to the subtraction term in Eq. (9). The spatial average of 167 due to the subtraction term in Eq. (9). The spatial average of 168 the four-point correlation function Eq. (10) is also evaluated 188 $\kappa_4 = \left(\frac{V}{T}\right)^3 \left[\langle n_B^4 \rangle - 3\langle n_B^2 \rangle^2\right] = 6[2(\lambda_3/m)^2 - \lambda_4]m^{-8}$. 169 with finite volume. Please see Appendix A for the detailed 170 expression. The integration can not be performed analytically and evaluated numerically instead in this work.

PARAMETERIZATION AND DISCUSSION

172

To evaluate various orders of cumulants (or susceptibil-174 ity) near the QCD critical point, it requires the behavior of 175 correlation length ξ , coupling constants λ_3 and λ_4 . Lattice 176 QCD suffers sign problem at large chemical potential [11], and the results in the effective theories based on QCD depend on the input parameters. On the other hand, the system near 179 the QCD critical point is believed to belong to the same uni-199 180 versality class with three three-dimensional Ising (3D Ising) model [41–43]. Therefore, the equation of state as well as the 182 coupling constants near the QCD critical point can be mapped 201 with which, various orders of Ising susceptibilities can be ob-183 from the 3D Ising model.

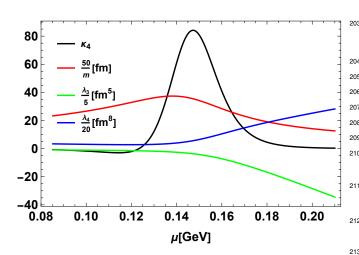


Fig. 1. (Color online) The coupling constants of the effective potential near the critical point, mapped from the 3D Ising model.

model [23–26], the coupling constants are related to the net- 219 ative position to the critical point in the QCD phase diagram,

as 186 baryon susceptibility in the zero mode limit:

$$\kappa_2 = \frac{V}{T} \langle n_B^2 \rangle = m^{-2}, \kappa_3 = \left(\frac{V}{T}\right)^2 \langle n_B^3 \rangle = -2\lambda_3 m^{-6},$$

$$\kappa_4 = \left(\frac{V}{T}\right)^3 [\langle n_B^4 \rangle - 3\langle n_B^2 \rangle^2] = 6[2(\lambda_3/m)^2 - \lambda_4] m^{-8}.$$
(11)

189 And the net-baryon susceptibilities are mapped from the ones 190 of the 3D Ising model:

$$\kappa_n = T^{4-n} \kappa_n^{\text{Ising}}, \tag{12}$$

where the mapping coefficient is non-universal and T^{4-n} is 193 chosen according to the dimensional of the baryon suscepti-194 bility. In the equation of state for the 3D Ising model, the 195 magnetization M of the Ising system is a function of the re- $_{
m 196}\,$ duced temperature r and the external magnetic field h and can 197 be parameterized as [19]:

$$M = M_0 \tilde{R}^{1/3} \theta,$$

 $r = h_0 \tilde{R} (1 - \theta^2),$
 $h = \tilde{R}^{5/3} (3\theta - 2\theta^3).$ (13)

202 tained by

$$\kappa_{n+1}^{\text{Ising}} = \frac{\partial^n M}{\partial h^n} \bigg|_r, \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \cdots$$
(14)

204 Where \tilde{R} is the distance to the critical point on the phase di- $_{205}$ agram, and θ is the corresponding angle with respect to the 206 crossover curve. M_0 and h_0 are normalization constants: $_{207}~M_{0}~\simeq~0.605, h_{0}~\simeq~0.394.$ In addition, the reduced tem- $_{208}$ perature r and the external magnetic field h are related to the 209 temperature T and baryon chemical potential μ of QCD sys-210 tem through the linear mapping [20, 21, 26]:

$$\frac{r}{\Delta r} = -\frac{\mu - \mu_c}{\Delta \mu},$$

$$\frac{h}{\Delta h} = \frac{T - T_c}{\Delta T}.$$
(15)

where T_c and μ_c are the critical temperature and chemical 214 potential of the QCD critical point, respectively. The critical point of 3D Ising model locates at r = h = 0. The map-216 ping does not constraint the location of QCD critical point (T_c, μ_c) , which are typically treated as free parameters. The To be more specific, in the conserved dynamical 218 behavior of the critical fluctuations are determined by the rel221 critical point (T_c, μ_c) does not affect the qualitative behavior 259 and/or t in this model only impact the critical value of sys-222 of $\kappa\sigma^2$ and are set as $(T_c, \mu_c) = (0.145 \text{ GeV}, 0.16 \text{ GeV})$ 260 tem size R to get the dip behavior of kurtosis. Fig.2 shows 223 in this work. ΔT and $\Delta \mu$ are the corresponding widths 261 the second-order susceptibility within a finite system as a of the critical region, Δh and Δr are the ones in the Ising 262 function of the radius of the system, with different correla-225 model. These are non-universal parameters and are set as 263 tion lengths ξ . On can see that χ_2 increases monotonically $\Delta T = T_c/8, \Delta \mu = 0.1 \text{ GeV}, \Delta r = (5/3)^{3/4}, \Delta h = 1 \text{ in } 264 \text{ with the increasing size } R.$ In the case of large correlation Ref. [26]. Through the mapping, Eq.(14) and Eq. (15), the 265 length $\xi = 5.0$ fm, χ_2 strongly depends on the size, especially 228 net-baryon susceptibilities on the QCD phase diagram (T, μ) 266 $R \ll \xi$, indicating the acceptance dependence of the critical 229 are constructed from the ones on the (r, h) plane. And there- 267 fluctuations in experiments. On the other hand, if the system 230 fore the coupling constants can be obtained in Eq. (11).

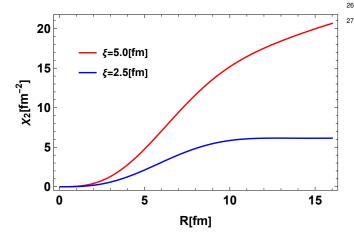


Fig. 2. (Color online) Second order baryon susceptibility χ_2 as a function of the radius of the coordinate space R. Different colors represent the input correlation length $\xi = 2.5$ fm and 5 fm.

This work is dedicated to understanding the sign of the 232 kurtosis in the dynamics of the conserved net-baryon near the QCD critical point and the coupling constants are constructed by mapping from the 3D Ising model as in Refs. [23– 26]. Fig.1 shows the coupling constants with the temperature T=0.138 GeV, below the phase transition curve. The fourth-order net-baryon susceptibility constructed from the Ising model has a small negative value at the crossover side (small μ), and becomes positive at the first-order side (large μ). As expected, the coupling constant $\sqrt{K/m} \equiv \xi$ has a peak close to the critical chemical potential $\mu_c=0.16$ GeV. As the constants plotted with the temperature $T < T_c$, λ_3 and λ_4 have negative and positive values, respectively.

235

244

The second-order (4) and fourth-order (9) susceptibilities within the finite system are evaluated with the Monte-Carlo integration algorithm. Since the knowledge of the diffusion constant D and surface tension K near the QCD critical point is limited, they are set as $D = 1 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ and $K = 1 \text{ fm}^4$, the evolution time t is chosen as t=10 fm. These are treated as free parameters in this work. As shown in Eq. (7), the dynamical factor $\exp[-Dtp_i^2(Kp_i^2+m^2)]$ is introduced merely to mimic the dynamical effects in the linearized limit [37]. It is far from realistic dynamical critical fluctuations, which 254 requires full simulation of the dynamical evolution equa-255 tion [23–26]. The effect of this dynamical factor in this con-256 text is suppression of the magnitude of correlation function 257 D_{ij} . As will be shown below, the sign of $\kappa \sigma^2$ is determined

₂₂₀ not the absolute value of T and μ . Thus, the location of QCD ₂₅₈ by the magnitude of D_{ij} in this model. Different values of D268 is much larger than the correlation length (e.g., $\xi = 2.5$ fm), χ_2 approaches to a constant value when the size is sufficiently 270 large.

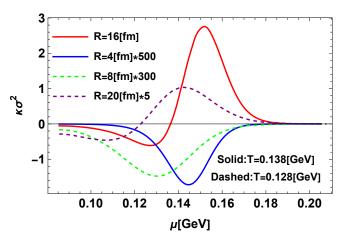


Fig. 3. (Color online) Kurtosis of the net-baryon $\kappa \sigma^2$ within finite system near the QCD critical point. Different colors correspond to the ones with the radius of the coordinate space R=4,8,16,20fm, respectively. Solid curves are obtained with a temperature (T = 0.138 GeV) closer to critical temperature T_c , and the dashed with temperature (T = 0.128 GeV) further away from T_c . The factor after unit means the kurtosis has been multiplied for illustrative purposes (e.g., blue curve corresponds to $500\kappa\sigma^2$).

Fig.3 presents the kurtosis $\kappa \sigma^2$ of the net-baryon within 272 a finite system near the QCD critical point³. In the limit of 273 large system (e.g., R=16 fm in Fig.3), $\kappa\sigma^2$ behaves non-274 monotonically as a function of the baryon chemical potential μ and presents a negative value at crossover side (small μ) and 276 a positive value at first-order side (large μ). This is consistent with the one in an ideal system with infinite large system [13], which can be seen in Eq.(8) that the second order susceptibil-279 ity approaches to the ideal case $\chi_2 o \xi^2$. On the other hand, 280 $\kappa \sigma^2$ within a finite system (e.g., R = 4 fm in Fig.3) becomes 281 negative and presents a dip behavior near the critical point. 282 As pointed out in Fig.2, the correlation D_{ij} or the suscepti-283 bility strongly depends on the size of the system and has a 284 small value when the system is small. As shown in Eq.(10), 285 the fourth-order coupling term with λ_4 presents a negative

³ Note that Fig.3 only shows the kurtosis with temperature below T_c , since the kurtosis above T_c behave similarly as the ones below T_c because of the symmetry of kurtosis in terms of phase transition curve.

287 order coupling term with λ_3 contributes positively with five 330 served net-baryon density near the QCD critical point, it 288 correlators D_{ij} s. In the case of a small magnitude of corre- 331 was found that the kurtosis of net-baryon is typically neglator D_{ij} , the fourth-order coupling term with λ_4 dominates 332 ative [23–26]. To understand the negative kurtosis in conand the four-point correlation functions $\langle n_B^4 \rangle$ can be negative, served dynamical models, this work focuses on the sign of which results in the negative $\kappa \sigma^2$ near the QCD critical point. served dynamical models, this work focuses on the sign of which results in the negative $\kappa \sigma^2$ near the QCD critical point. In addition, Fig. 3 also shows the system further away from the 335 to only part of the system being detected. It was found that critical point ($T_c = 0.145 \text{ GeV}$) with temperature T = 0.128 336 the susceptibility is proportional to the increasing size of the GeV. Comparing the case with T=0.138 GeV, the critical $_{337}$ detected system, and the magnitude of the second-order corsignal is weaker and the magnitude of D_{ij} is smaller. The 338 relation function D_{ij} is small when the scale of the system is magnitude of $\kappa\sigma^2$ is smaller (purple curve) and it is easier to 339 much smaller than the correlation length. This property, sois still possible to flip the sign of kurtosis by tuning the system 341 bution from the fourth-order coupling term λ_4 (proportional size R even with different strengths of the critical signal.

by a factor of 500 for illustrative purposes, which is a rela- 344 term with λ_3 (proportional to $\sim D_{ij}^5$) in χ_4 has a positive tively small value compared with the case of R=16 fm. It is 345 contribution that is much smaller than the term with λ_4 . In notable that the model employed in this work is an ideal sys- 346 the dynamical models of conserved net-baryon, the kurtosis tem, and the quantitative magnitude of the 'dip' in the small 347 is obtained only with part of the system, this finite number system size requires more realistic modeling in heavy-ion col- 348 of particles be detected and the corresponding kurtosis can lisions. QGP fireball created in relativistic heavy-ion colli- 349 behave with a dip near the critical point, instead of a peak. sions is a fast expanding and finite size system, and several 350 factors contribute to the final observables of the QCD critical 351 kurtosis within the static system without considering the dy-312 nite size effects (finite size of fireball). This motives the study 355 48]), the realistic finite size of the QGP fireball as well as of the dynamical modeling near the QCD critical point in rel- 356 the finite detector acceptance window requires to be properly ativistic heavy-ion collisions [27-32]. However, only part 357 taken into account in the future study of higher order net-316 the finite acceptance window of the detector in experiments. 359 can also performed with other possible observable of critical The net-proton multiplicity fluctuations at the Beam Energy 360 point, such light-nuclei yield ratio [49–51]. 318 Scan phase I already shown the acceptance dependence and 319 the fluctuations with a small acceptance window deviate from 320 the ones with a larger acceptance window [40]. Therefore, the comprehensive dynamical modeling of the critical fluctuations with the realistic detector acceptance window as well as 323 the finite size of the QGP fireball is essential for the compar-324 ison with the experiment measurement in the coming Beam 325 Energy Scan phase II.

IV. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

326

367

In summary, the sign of the higher-order multiplicity fluc-328 tuations plays an important role in exploring the QCD phase 366 where the detailed expression of the first term is

286 contribution with four terms of correlators D_{ij} , and the third-329 transition. In the simulation of the dynamics for the conachieve the negative kurtosis (R=8 fm). This means that it 340 called acceptance dependence, results in the negative contri-₃₄₂ to $\sim D_{ij}^4$) dominates in fourth-order susceptibility χ_4 when Note that $\kappa\sigma^2$ with R=4 fm in Fig. 3 has been multiplied 343 the detected system size is small. On the other hand, another

This work focuses on the finite size effects on the sign of point. It is typically believed that the dynamical effects ($\sim \xi^z$, 352 namical modeling in a realistic experiment context. Based on where the dynamical critical exponent $z\sim3$ for QCD critical $_{353}$ the dynamical model near the QCD critical point (e.g., based point) induced by the expanding effects dominate over the fi- 354 on hydrodynamic model [23-26] or transport model [44of the system contributes to the final observables considering 358 proton multiplicity fluctuations. In addition, such analysis

Appendix A: Expression of spatial average of four-point correlation function (10)

This appendix shows the spatial average of the four-point 364 correlation function (10):

$$\langle n_B^4 \rangle = V^{-4} \int_V \prod_{i=1}^4 d^3 x_i \langle n_B(x_1) n_B(x_2) n_B(x_3) n_B(x_4) \rangle. \tag{A1}$$

$$-6\lambda_4 \frac{T^3}{V^4} \int d^3z \int \prod_{i=1}^4 d^3x_i D_{zi}$$

$$= -6\left(\frac{4}{\pi}\right)^3 \frac{\lambda_4 T^3}{V^4} \frac{1}{K^4} \int_0^R dz z^{-2} \int \prod_{i=1}^4 \left[dp_i \sin(p_i z) (\sin(p_i R) - p_i R \cos(p_i R)) \frac{\exp[-Dt p_i^2 (K p_i^2 + m^2)]}{p_i^2 (p_i^2 + m^2/K)} \right],$$

$$12\lambda_{3}^{2} \frac{T^{3}}{V^{4}} \int d^{3}u d^{3}v \int \left[d^{3}x_{i}\right] D_{u1} D_{u1} D_{v3} D_{v4} D_{uv}$$

$$= 6\left(\frac{4}{\pi}\right)^{4} \frac{\lambda_{3}^{2} T^{3}}{V^{4}} \frac{1}{K^{5}} \int dp_{5} \frac{\exp[-Dtp_{i}^{2}(Kp_{i}^{2} + m^{2})]}{p_{5}^{2} + m^{2}/K} \int \prod_{i=1}^{4} \left[dp_{i}(\sin(p_{i}R) - p_{i}R\cos(p_{i}R)) \frac{\exp[-Dtp_{i}^{2}(Kp_{i}^{2} + m^{2})]}{p_{i}^{2}(p_{i}^{2} + m^{2}/K)}\right]$$

$$\times \int_{0}^{R} \frac{dudv}{uv} \sin(p_{1}u) \sin(p_{2}u) \sin(p_{3}v) \sin(p_{4}v) \sin(p_{5}u) \sin(p_{5}v).$$

370 The above integrations can not be performed analytically and 371 are evaluated numerically with the Monte Carlo algorithm.

- [1] Y. Aoki, G. Endrodi, Z. Fodor, et al., The Order of the 419 372 quantum chromodynamics transition predicted by the stan- 420 [16] dard model of particle physics, Nature 443, 675-678 (2006) 421 374 doi:10.1038/nature05120 375
- [2] H. T. Ding, F. Karsch and S. Mukherjee, Thermodynamics of 423 [17] 376 strong-interaction matter from Lattice QCD, Int. J. Mod. Phys. E 24, 1530007 (2015) doi:10.1142/S0218301315300076 378
- [3] A. Bazavov et al., [USQCD], Hot-dense Lattice QCD: 426 379 USQCD whitepaper 2018, Eur. Phys. J. A 55, 194 (2019) 427 380 doi:10.1140/epja/i2019-12922-0 381

382

383

385

386

387

388

389

390

391

392

393

394

395

396

- [4] C. Ratti, Lattice QCD and heavy ion collisions: a review of recent progress, Rept. Prog. Phys. 81, 084301 (2018) doi:10.1088/1361-6633/aabb97
- C. S. Fischer, QCD at finite temperature and chemical potential 432 from Dyson-Schwinger equations, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 105, 433 1-60 (2019) doi:10.1016/j.ppnp.2019.01.002
- [6] K. Fukushima and T. Hatsuda, The phase diagram of dense 435 QCD, Rept. Prog. Phys. 74, 014001 (2011) doi:10.1088/0034-4885/74/1/014001
- [7] K. Fukushima and C. Sasaki, The phase diagram of nuclear and 438 quark matter at high baryon density, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 72, 439 99-154 (2013) doi:10.1016/j.ppnp.2013.05.003
- [8] W. j. Fu, QCD at finite temperature and density within the fRG 441 [22] M. Sakaida, M. Asakawa, H. Fujii et al., Dynamical approach: an overview, Commun. Theor. Phys. 74, 097304 442 (2022) doi:10.1088/1572-9494/ac86be
- [9] W. j. Fu, J. M. Pawlowski and F. Rennecke, QCD phase struc- 444 397 ture at finite temperature and density, Phys. Rev. D **101**, 054032 398 (2020) doi:10.1103/PhysRevD.101.054032
- M. A. Stephanov, K. Rajagopal and E. V. Shuryak, Signatures 447 400 401 (1998) doi:10.1103/PhysRevLett.81.4816 402
- [11] M. A. Stephanov, QCD Phase Diagram and the Criti- 450 403 cal Point, Prog. Theor. Phys. Suppl. 153, 139-156 (2004) 451 [25] 404 doi:10.1143/PTPS.153.139 405
- 406 [12] M. A. Stephanov, Non-Gaussian fluctuations near the 453 407 doi:10.1103/PhysRevLett.102.032301 408
- [13] M. A. Stephanov, On the sign of kurtosis near the 456 409 QCD critical point, Phys. Rev. Lett. 107, 052301 (2011) 457 [27] 410 doi:10.1103/PhysRevLett.107.052301 411
- 412 [14] X. Luo and N. Xu, Search for the QCD Critical Point with 459 Fluctuations of Conserved Quantities in Relativistic Heavy-Ion 460 413 Collisions at RHIC: An Overview, Nucl. Sci. Tech. 28, 112 461 [28] 414 (2017) doi:10.1007/s41365-017-0257-0 415
- 416 [15] C. Athanasiou, K. Rajagopal and M. Stephanov, Using Higher 463 Moments of Fluctuations and their Ratios in the Search for 464 [29] 417 the QCD Critical Point, Phys. Rev. D 82, 074008 (2010) 465 418

- doi:10.1103/PhysRevD.82.074008
- J. Adam et al., [STAR], Nonmonotonic Energy Dependence of Net-Proton Number Fluctuations, Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 092301 (2021) doi:10.1103/PhysRevLett.126.092301
- M. Abdallah et al., [STAR], Cumulants and correlation functions of net-proton, proton, and antiproton multiplicity distributions in Au+Au collisions at energies available at the BNL Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, Phys. Rev. C 104, 024902 (2021) doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.104.024902
- 428 [18] B. Berdnikov and K. Rajagopal, Slowing out-of-equilibrium near the QCD critical point, Phys. Rev. D 61, 105017 (2000) doi:10.1103/PhysRevD.61.105017
- C. Nonaka and M. Asakawa, Hydrodynamical evolution near the QCD critical end point, Phys. Rev. C 71, 044904 (2005) doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.71.044904
- [20] S. Mukherjee, R. Venugopalan and Y. Yin, Real time evolution of non-Gaussian cumulants in the QCD critical regime, Phys. Rev. C 92, 034912 (2015) doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.92.034912 436
- 437 [21] S. Tang, S. Wu and H. Song, Dynamical critical fluctuations near the QCD critical point with hydrodynamic cooling rate, Phys. Rev. C 108, 034901 (2023) doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.108.034901
 - evolution of critical fluctuations and its observation in heavy ion collisions, Phys. Rev. C 95, 064905 (2017) doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.95.064905
 - [23] M. Nahrgang, M. Bluhm, T. Schaefer et al., Diffusive dynamics of critical fluctuations near the QCD critical point, Phys. Rev. D 99, 116015 (2019) doi:10.1103/PhysRevD.99.116015
- of the tricritical point in QCD, Phys. Rev. Lett. 81, 4816-4819 448 [24] M. Nahrgang and M. Bluhm, Modeling the diffusive dynamics of critical fluctuations near the QCD critical point, Phys. Rev. D 102, 094017 (2020) doi:10.1103/PhysRevD.102.094017
 - G. Pihan, M. Bluhm, M. Kitazawa et al., Critical net-baryon fluctuations in an expanding system, Phys. Rev. C 107, 014908 (2023) doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.107.014908
- QCD critical point, Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 032301 (2009) 454 [26] S. Wu, Dynamics of the conserved net-baryon density near QCD critical point within QGP profile, [arXiv:2406.12325 [nucl-th]].
 - M. Asakawa and M. Kitazawa, Fluctuations of conserved charges in relativistic heavy ion collisions: An introduction, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 90, 299-342 (2016) doi:10.1016/j.ppnp.2016.04.002
 - A. Bzdak, S. Esumi, V. Koch, et al., Mapping the Phases of Quantum Chromodynamics with Beam Energy Scan, Phys. Rept. 853, 1-87 (2020) doi:10.1016/j.physrep.2020.01.005
 - M. Bluhm, A. Kalweit, M. Nahrgang, et al., Dynamics of critical fluctuations: Theory - phenomenology -

heavy-ion collisions, Nucl. Phys. A 1003, 122016 (2020) 506 doi:10.1016/j.nuclphysa.2020.122016

466

467

- 468 [30] S. Wu, C. Shen and H. Song, Dynamically Exploring the QCD 508 [41] Matter at Finite Temperatures and Densities: A Short Re- 509 469 view, Chin. Phys. Lett. 38, 081201 (2021) doi:10.1088/0256-470 307X/38/8/081201 471
- 472 [31] X. An, M. Bluhm, L. Du, et al., The BEST framework 512 for the search for the QCD critical point and the chi- 513 ral magnetic effect, Nucl. Phys. A 1017, 122343 (2022) 514 474 doi:10.1016/j.nuclphysa.2021.122343 475
- [32] L. Du, A. Sorensen and M. Stephanov, The QCD phase di- 516 476 agram and Beam Energy Scan physics: a theory overview, 517 477 doi:10.1142/S021830132430008X 478
- 479 [33] J. Chen, J. H. Chen, X. Dong et al., Properties of the QCD 519 matter: review of selected results from the relativistic heavy 520 ion collider beam energy scan (RHIC BES) program, Nucl. Sci. 521 [45] Y. Zhou, S. S. Shi, K. Xiao et al., Higher Moments of Net-481 Tech. 35, 214 (2024) doi:10.1007/s41365-024-01591-2 482
- 483 [34] M. Asakawa, S. Ejiri and M. Kitazawa, Third mo- 523 ments of conserved charges as probes of QCD 524 [46] 484 phase structure, Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 262301 (2009) 525 485 doi:10.1103/PhysRevLett.103.262301 486
- M. Kitazawa and M. Asakawa, Revealing baryon number 527 fluctuations from proton number fluctuations in relativis-488 tic heavy ion collisions, Phys. Rev. C 85, 021901 (2012) 529 [47] 489 doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.85.021901 490
- [36] M. Kitazawa and M. Asakawa, Relation between baryon num- 531 491 ber fluctuations and experimentally observed proton number 532 492 fluctuations in relativistic heavy ion collisions, Phys. Rev. C 493 86, 024904 (2012) [erratum: Phys. Rev. C 86, 069902 (2012)] 494 doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.86.024904 495
- 496 [37] U.C. Tauber, in Critical Dynamics, A Field Theory Approach 536 [49] to Equilibrium and Non-Equilibrium Scaling Behavior, Cam- 537 497 bridge University Press, New York, 2014
- tuation measures near the QCD critical point, Phys. Rev. C 93, 540 500 034915 (2016) doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.93.034915 501
- 502 L. Jiang, P. Li and H. Song, Correlated fluctuations near 542 [51] the QCD critical point, Phys. Rev. C 94, 024918 (2016) 543 503 doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.94.024918 504
- 505 [40] X. Luo [STAR], Energy Dependence of Moments of Net- 545

- Proton and Net-Charge Multiplicity Distributions at STAR, PoS CPOD2014, 019 (2015) doi:10.22323/1.217.0019
- R. D. Pisarski and F. Wilczek, Remarks on the Chiral Phase Transition in Chromodynamics, Phys. Rev. D 29, 338-341 (1984) doi:10.1103/PhysRevD.29.338
- F. Wilczek, Application of the renormalization group to a second order QCD phase transition, Int. J. Mod. Phys. A 7, 3911-3925 (1992) [erratum: Int. J. Mod. Phys. A 7, 6951 (1992)] doi:10.1142/S0217751X92001757
- 515 [43] K. Rajagopal and F. Wilczek, Static and dynamic critical phenomena at a second order QCD phase transition, Nucl. Phys. B 399, 395-425 (1993) doi:10.1016/0550-3213(93)90502-G
- 518 [44] Q. Chen and G. L. Ma, Phys. Rev. C 106, no.1, 014907 (2022) doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.106.014907 [arXiv:2207.11736 [nucl-
 - Baryon Distribution as Probes of QCD Critical Point, Phys. Rev. C 82, 014905 (2010) doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.82.014905
 - J. Xu, S. Yu, F. Liu et al., Cumulants of net-proton, net-kaon, and net-charge multiplicity distributions in Au + Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ =7.7, 11.5, 19.6, 27, 39, 62.4, and 200 GeV within the UrQMD model, Phys. Rev. C 94, 024901 (2016) doi:10.1103/PhysRevC.94.024901
 - X. Jin, J. Chen, Z. Lin et al., Explore the QCD phase transition phenomena from a multiphase transport model, Sci. China Phys. Mech. Astron. 62, 11012 (2019) doi:10.1007/s11433-018-9272-4
- 533 [48] Q. Chen, R. Wen, S. Yin, et al., The influence of hadronic rescatterings on the net-baryon number fluctuations, [arXiv:2402.12823 [nucl-th]].
- C.M. Ko, Searching for QCD critical point with light nuclei. Nucl. Sci. Technol. 34, 80 (2023). doi. org/ 10. 1007/ s41365-023-01231-1
- 499 [38] B. Ling and M. A. Stephanov, Acceptance dependence of fluc- 539 [50] K. J. Sun, L. W. Chen, C. M. Ko et al., Light nuclei production as a probe of the QCD phase diagram, Phys. Lett. B 781, 499-504 (2018) doi:10.1016/j.physletb.2018.04.035
 - K. J. Sun, L. W. Chen, C. M. Ko el al., Probing QCD critical fluctuations from light nuclei production in relativistic heavy-ion collisions, Phys. Lett. B 774, 103-107 (2017) doi:10.1016/j.physletb.2017.09.056